“The possession of knowledge carries an ethical responsibility”- Plan

**The title reworded:** i.e. simply knowing something makes you ethically responsible.

**Keywords:**

*Knowledge, ethical responsibility, evaluate*

Introduction:

* Discuss whether I agree with the statement or if I disagree
* I agree and disagree (why)- knowledge issues and WOK
* Write a thesis statement
* Mention, which issues I will explore and provide a short overview of which ideas you will discuss in the essay.
* Knowledge issues and WOK

(Questions that could be assessed:

* Why should knowing lead to ethical responsibility? Is ethical responsibility rather created by what the knower does with knowledge?
* Is it our interpretation of knowledge that create ethical responsibility rather than knowledge in itself?
* How does possession of knowledge create ethical responsibility? At what point in the process of knowing, if ever, is ethical responsibility created?)

1st paragraph:

* Take an example from an area of knowledge.
* Show how it supports your thesis.
* Discuss a specific area of knowledge
* Discuss it with both arguments and counter-arguments
* Bring in a real life situation **(if possible)-** (e.g. research opportunities from the Large Hadron Collider have experienced a dilemma such as nuclear studies. Nuclear research can benefit many people but this research can lead to nuclear weapons increase. Does the scientist who acquired this knowledge have the ethical responsibility to indirectly cause a bigger, nuclear problem?)

2nd paragraph:

* The same as above but with another area of knowledge

3rd paragraph:

* Discuss a personal experience which relates to the topic (e.g. I witness two of my classmates cheating. Is it my duty to tell the teachers about this occurrence considering the fact that it is wrong or is it my duty to keep quiet about it because they are my classmates; my friends?)

4th (5th and 6th) paragraph:

* Discuss how some ways of knowing (perception, reason, language, emotion) are linked to your topic.
* How they affect what kind of knowledge we gain and reliability of knowledge.
* Arguments and counter arguments

7th paragraph:

* Personal opinions from what has been mentioned so far

8th paragraph:

* Use relevant topics studied in TOK such as the Bystander effect which is “the phenomenon in which the greater the numbers of people present, the less likely people are to help a person in distress. When an emergency situation occurs, observers are more likely to take action if there are few or no other witnesses.” (e.g. a famous case in the early 1960, where Kitty Genovese was attacked)
* OR
* Kant’s Theory which is “human beings are always and everywhere selfish.”
* Finish off with the fear of punishment argument then can refer to how I disagree with the statement in which I say not everyone acts upon the ethical responsibility.

In conclusion:

* Refer back to the essay question and provide a short answer to it.
* Refer to the arguments and evidence I have mentioned in the essay.
* Mention what are the strengths and limitations of the argument and pose open questions.